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FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS SERVICE

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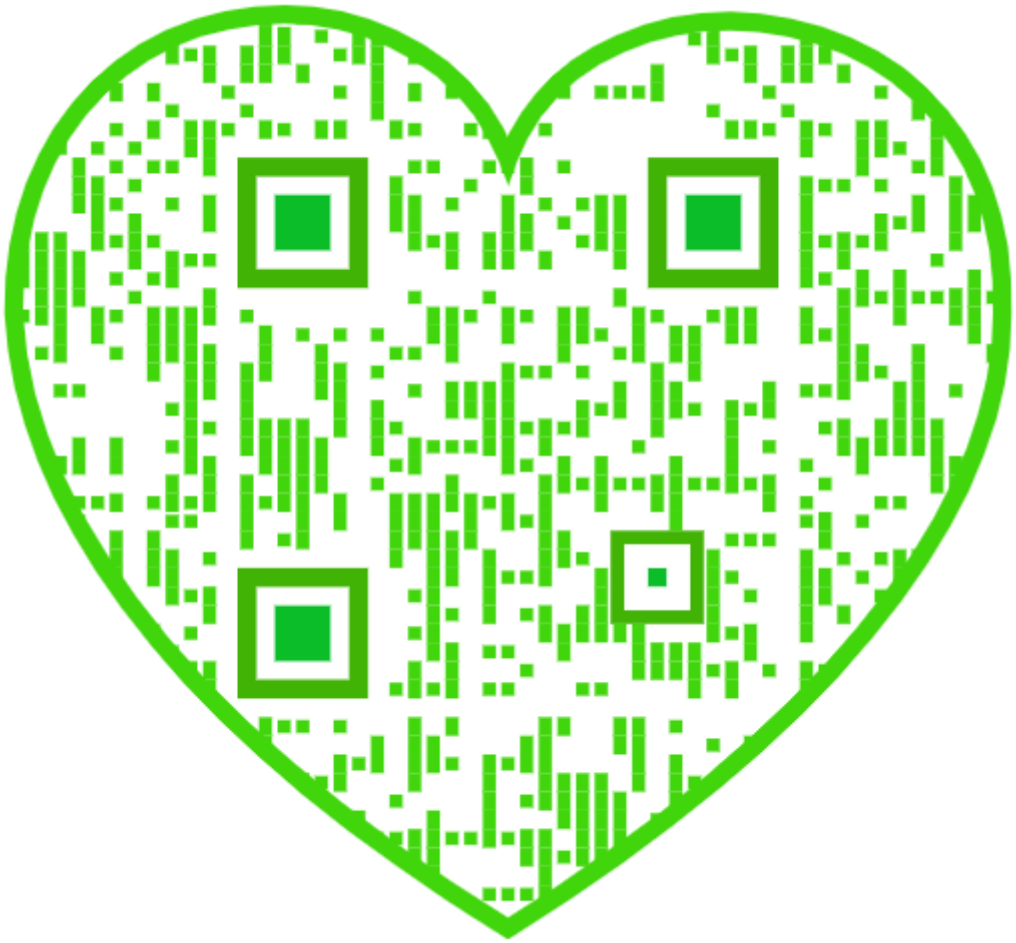
OCD Publication 3401-I

U. S. OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE

Washington, D. C.

Revised December 1942



OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

JULY 11, 1942

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 27

(As Amended August 21, 1942)

ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS SERVICE

Pursuant to authority granted by Executive Order No. 8757 dated May 20, 1941, as amended by Executive Order No. 9134 of April 15, 1942, and Executive Order No. 9165 of May 19, 1942, the Director of Civilian Defense hereby confirms the establishment, within the Office of Civilian Defense, of the Forest Fire Fighters Service.

1. Purpose.

The Forest Fire Fighters Service has been established in accordance with the policy of the Facility Security Program of the Office of Civilian Defense, to assist in safeguarding forest lands and other timber facilities and resources, to aid in prevention and suppression of fires which might endanger such facilities and resources, and to minimize the effects of any such fires. Its functions shall be to aid in Nation-wide forest fire prevention education and to enroll volunteer fire fighters for service in forest and rural areas. It shall cooperate with the forest fire protection agencies of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, with State forestry officials and private forest fire protective organizations.

2. Insigne.

The basic insigne prescribed for the Forest Fire Fighters Service shall consist of a pine tree, in red, placed in the center of a white equilateral triangle embossed on a circular field of blue. The basic insigne may be included in arm bands and brassards, lapel pins and buttons, sleeve insigne for uniforms, collar and cap emblems for uniforms, automobile stickers and plates, and Certificates of Membership. The use and wear of all official articles embodying the prescribed insigne shall be governed by Office of Civilian Defense Regulations No. 2 and any other rules, regulations, orders, or instructions issued by the Director.

3. Organization and Supervision.

(*a*) The Forest Fire Fighters Service shall operate under the supervision of the Office of Civilian Defense, Facility Security Branch, and shall be directed by the Timber and Related Facilities Committee which shall consist of appropriate officials in the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture, appointed by and responsible to the Director of Civilian Defense.

(*b*) The Director of Civilian Defense shall appoint, upon the recommendation of the Timber and Related Facilities Committee, a National Coordinator of the Forest Fire Fighters Service to direct its operations subject to the Timber and Related Facilities Committee, and such National Coordinator shall appoint, with the approval of the Director of Civilian Defense, State Coordinators from Federal, State or private forest fire protection agencies.

(*c*) The State Coordinators shall appoint Local Coordinators from Federal, State or private forest fire protection agencies.

(*d*) The Local Coordinators shall appoint from the enrolled membership of the Forest Fire Fighters Service, within each locality, a Squad Leader who will have under his control a working unit of from 8 to 10 Forest Fire Fighters.

James M. Landis,
Director.

FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS SERVICE (FFFS)

Forest fires—200,000 of them—annually attack the forest resources of the nation during peacetime, requiring the cooperation of all public-spirited citizens to combat them. In wartime, with the possibility of incendiary bombing and ground sabotage as added threats, the need for widespread civilian participation in the fight against fire is even more imperative. Forest fires destroy timber needed for war; they may threaten military and industrial establishments; forest fire smoke may mask enemy attack or interfere with our air operations. The Forest Fire Fighters Service was established (see Administrative Order No. 27, opposite page) to help the established forest fire protection agencies meet the present war emergency fire situation. By becoming a part of this organization individuals can contribute their share toward protection of our forest resources which are so vital to the war job.

STATUS OF THE FFFS

The FFFS is one of the five basic Civilian Defense Groups as illustrated below.

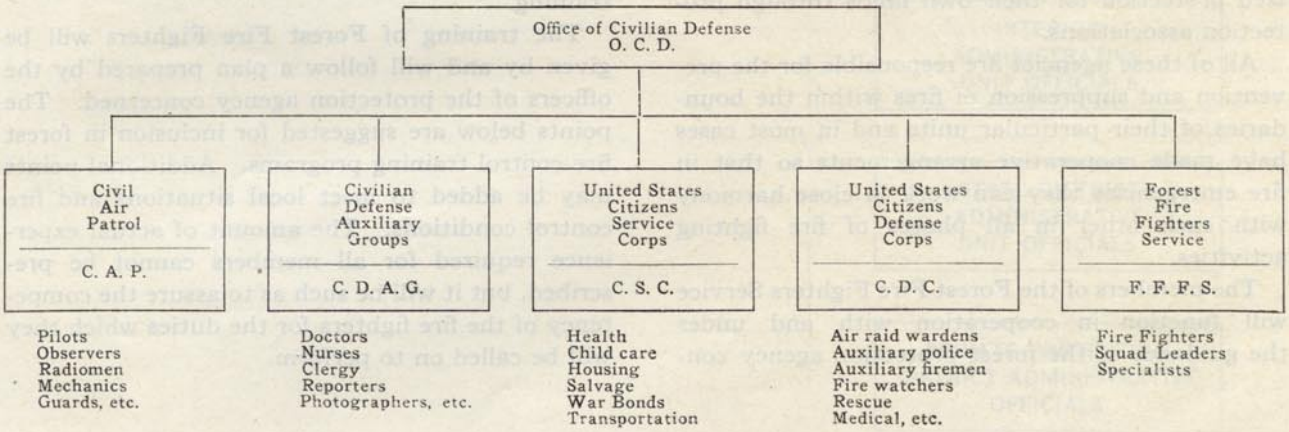
PURPOSE OF THE FFFS

It is the purpose of the organization to:

1. Provide fire fighters, equipped and trained, to augment the forest protection agencies of the locality.
2. Acquaint the people in the area with their responsibility in fire prevention and suppression.
3. Provide an opportunity for people in and near forested areas to participate in the war effort.

This auxiliary force will be registered under the direction of the Office of Civilian Defense, and will be trained, classified, and certified by the established forest protection agencies, for enrollment by the O. C. D.

Organization of the auxiliary force into an efficient, trained and properly equipped forest fire fighting reserve and the direction of these forces in fire-control work will be the duty of regularly established Federal, State and private forest protection organizations.



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RELATIONSHIP OF THE FFFS TO THE PROTECTION AGENCIES

The agencies responsible for protecting the forested lands of the nation from forest fires are:

Department of Agriculture:
- United States Forest Service.
- Soil Conservation Service.

Department of Interior:
- National Park Service.
- Indian Service.
- Fish and Wildlife Service.
- General Land Office.
- Grazing Service.

Tennessee Valley Authority.

States:
- State forestry agencies.
- County forestry agencies.

Private timber owners:
- Private timber protection associations.

Federal agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior, have full jurisdiction on certain tracts of land for which they assume responsibility for forest fire control. The States own or control certain lands which they protect and in addition they provide protection, through State and private funds and contributed Federal funds, to large areas of privately owned lands. In many areas the political subdivisions within a State are charged with the responsibility for fire protection and are financed and equipped to carry out fire fighting activities. The Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture is responsible for organizing protection on farms and it cooperates in the organization of the FFFS.

In some areas private interests provide organized protection for their own lands through protection associations.

All of these agencies are responsible for the prevention and suppression of fires within the boundaries of their particular units and in most cases have made cooperative arrangements so that in fire emergencies they can work in close harmony with each other in all phases of fire fighting activities.

The members of the Forest Fire Fighters Service will function in cooperation with and under the guidance of the forest protection agency concerned. Specifically, units of the FFFS will serve under the immediate direction of the "Local Coordinator" who in all cases will be an officer of one of the local protection agencies in accordance with the chart on the opposite page.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOREST FIRE FIGHTER

1. *Assist in the prevention of forest, brush, and grass fires.*—The Forest Fire Fighter will personally exercise every care in the use of fire and he will aid in the education of his neighbors, school children, and the general public in the need for preventing fires.

2. *Participate in the training program.*—In addition to giving his own time to secure training, he will, in case he is selected as a squad leader, help train men in his locality to assist him in the discharge of his duties.

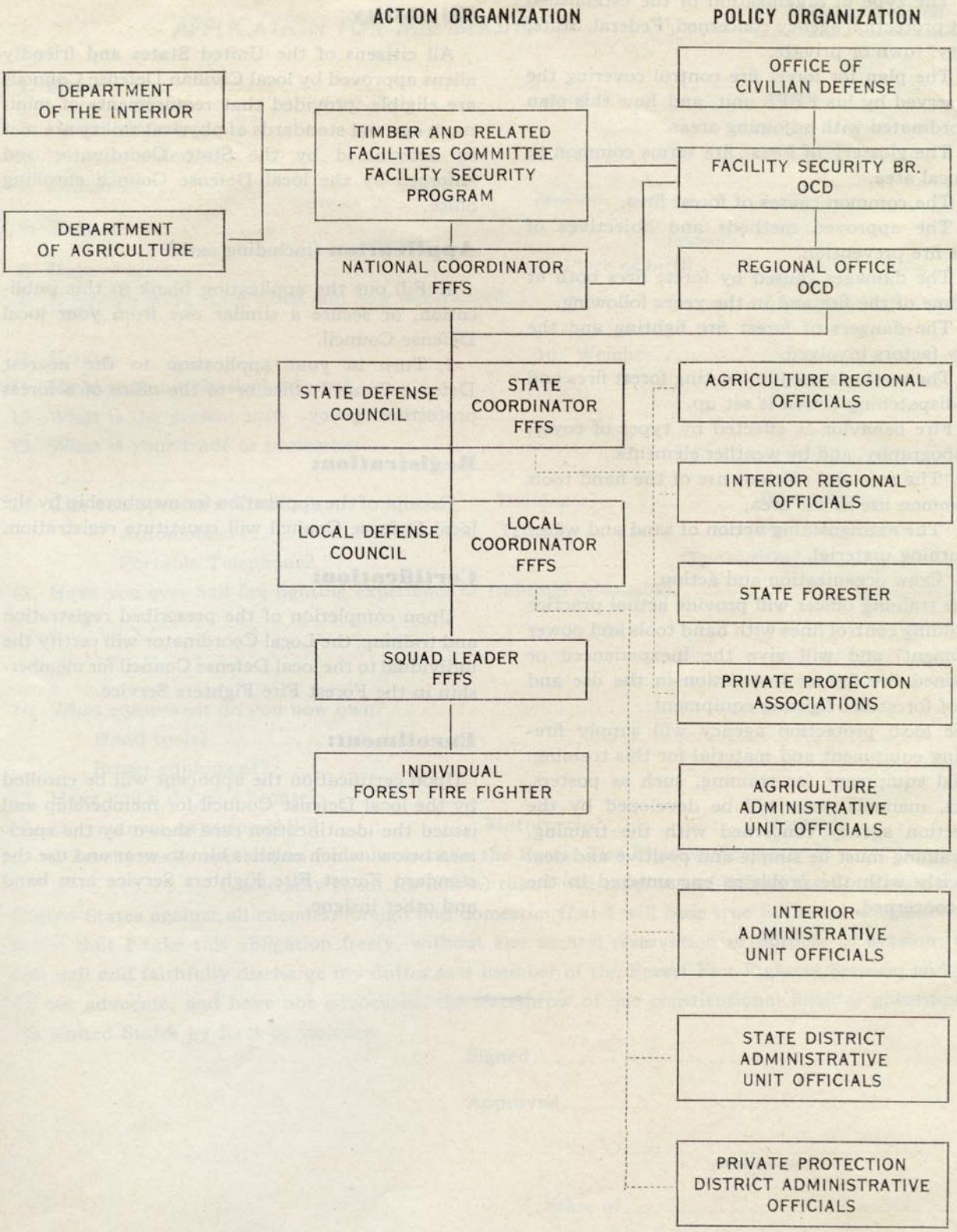
3. *Help to control forest, brush, and grass fires.*—The Forest Fire Fighter will be on call to go to a fire and work on it until released by the responsible protection officer. The Forest Fire Fighter, when engaged in his normal civilian occupations, will be constantly on the alert and in case he discovers a fire he will take initial action to suppress the fire and will notify the proper protection officers.

TRAINING

Members of the Forest Fire Fighters Service will be required to complete satisfactorily a minimum of 12 hours of training before becoming eligible for certification by the Local Coordinator of the Forest Fire Fighters Service. Experience and previous training may, in the judgment of the Coordinator, be substituted for the required training.

The training of Forest Fire Fighters will be given by and will follow a plan prepared by the officers of the protection agency concerned. The points below are suggested for inclusion in forest fire control training programs. Additional points may be added to meet local situations and fire control conditions. The amount of actual experience required for all members cannot be prescribed, but it will be such as to assure the competency of the fire fighters for the duties which they will be called on to perform.

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS SERVICE



WHAT THE FIRE FIGHTER NEEDS TO KNOW

1. The type of organization of the established forest protection agency concerned, Federal, State, county, town or private.

2. The plan for forest fire control covering the area served by his FFFS unit, and how this plan is coordinated with adjoining areas.

3. The glossary of forest fire terms common to the local area.

4. The common causes of forest fires.

5. The approved methods and objectives of forest fire prevention.

6. The damages caused by forest fires both at the time of the fire and in the years following.

7. The dangers of forest fire fighting and the safety factors involved.

8. The methods used in locating forest fires and how dispatching action is set up.

9. Fire behavior as effected by types of cover, by topography, and by weather elements.

10. The safe and efficient use of the hand tools in common use in the area.

11. The extinguishing action of sand and water on burning material.

12. Crew organization and action.

The training officer will provide actual practice in building control lines with hand tools and power equipment, and will give the inexperienced or untrained fire fighter instruction in the use and care of forest fire fighting equipment.

The local protection agency will supply fire-fighting equipment and material for this training. Special equipment for training, such as posters, charts, manuals, etc., will be developed by the protection agency concerned with the training. All training must be simple and positive and deal explicitly with the problems encountered in the area concerned.

HOW TO JOIN THE FFFS

Eligibility

All citizens of the United States and friendly aliens approved by local Civilian Defense Councils are eligible, provided that requirements of minimum age and standards of physical ability are met as determined by the State Coordinator and enforced by the local Defense Council enrolling office.

Application (including oath)

1. Fill out the application blank in this publication, or secure a similar one from your local Defense Council.

2. Turn in your application to the nearest Defense Council office or to the office of a forest protection agency.

Registration:

Receipt of the application for membership by the local Defense Council will constitute registration.

Certification:

Upon completion of the prescribed registration and training, the Local Coordinator will certify the individual to the local Defense Council for membership in the Forest Fire Fighters Service.

Enrollment:

Upon certification the applicant will be enrolled by the local Defense Council for membership and issued the identification card shown by the specimen below, which entitles him to wear and use the standard Forest Fire Fighters Service arm band and other insigne.

FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS SERVICE

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Tear This Out and Take It to Your Local Defense Council

1. Name _____ (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Middle)
2. Home address _____
3. Business address _____
4. Telephone _____ (Home) _____ (Business) _____ (Other)
5. Next of kin _____ (Name) _____ (Address)
6. Date of birth _____ 7. Place of birth _____
8. If foreign born, state when and how naturalized _____
9. Height _____ 10. Weight _____
11. Have you any physical defects? _____
12. What is the present state of your health? _____
13. What is your trade or profession? _____
14. Can you operate a Tractor? _____ Bulldozer? _____ Power Pump? _____
    Automobile? _____ Truck? _____ Portable Radio? _____
    Portable Telephone? _____ Typewriter? _____
15. Have you ever had fire fighting experience or training? (describe) _____
16. What equipment do you now own? _____
    Hand tools? _____
    Power equipment? _____
17. Have you a driver's license? _____
18. Do you own an automobile? _____ Motorcycle? _____ Horses? _____

I hereby make application for enlistment in the Forest Fire Fighters Service. I, _____, solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; that I will well and faithfully discharge my duties as a member of the Forest Fire Fighters Service; and that I do not advocate, and have not advocated, the overthrow of our constitutional form of government in the United States by force or violence.

Signed _____

Approved _____

_____
(Coordinator)

State of _____

Applicant will leave the following spaces blank:

Work qualified for	
1.	
2.	

REMARKS

SAMPLE

Enrollment No. _____

FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS SERVICE

of

_____ _____

(County) (State)

This certifies that

_____

(Name)

_____

(Address)

_____

(Occupation)

is enrolled in the *Forest Fire Fighters Service* of the *Office of Civilian Defense* and entitled to wear and use its insigne.

(Signature for Identification)

_____

(Signature of Representative of Local Defense Council)

[To be printed on white cards 3½ by 2¼ inches]

Although these identification cards are official articles bearing prescribed insigne as defined by Regulations No. 2 of the Office of Civilian Defense, permission is granted for their manufacture and sale without obtaining license from the Washington Office. Cards should be ordered by Local Defense Councils from responsible companies so as to assure accurate reproduction and to guard against unauthorized delivery.

TRAINING NOTES

TRAINING NOTES

FOREST FIRE PREVENTION RULES

1. SMOKE ONLY while stopped in safe places, completely cleared of dry or inflammable materials. Observe "No Smoking" rules in those areas closed to smoking.

2. BREAK YOUR MATCH IN TWO before you throw it away. This makes sure that the match is out.

3. BE SURE YOUR CIGARETTE IS *OUT* before throwing it away. The same goes for pipe tobacco. *Never* throw them into grass, brush, or leaves.

4. BEFORE BUILDING A CAMPFIRE, scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center and in it build your fire. Keep it small. Secure permit, if required, from local Forest Ranger or Fire Warden.

5. PUT OUT CAMPFIRE before you leave. Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn all wood and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire. Be sure the last spark is dead out.

ALL FIRES DELAY VICTORY
Join
THE FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS SERVICE
OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE
SEE YOUR LOCAL DEFENSE COUNCIL Today

6. NEVER BURN SLASH OR BRUSH ON A WINDY DAY. Even with favorable conditions, be sure you can control your fire. Take absolutely no chances. Secure permit from local Forest Ranger or Fire Warden.

7. PUT OUT ANY SMALL FIRES YOU DISCOVER. Then report action to nearest Forest Ranger or Fire Warden. If too large for you to control alone, report at once from the nearest telephone. Time is most important.

REMEMBER: A burning match, a glowing cigarette, a smoldering campfire can be just as disastrous to our forests as an incendiary bomb. Do *your* part.

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